

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA RECEIVES A CULTURAL GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

The Government of Jamaica is the beneficiary of a Japanese Government's Cultural Grant extended to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

In this year of Jamaica's 50th Anniversary 2012, the bonds of friendship between Jamaica and Japan are strong. The Cultural Grant is extended for the purpose of contributing to the implementation of the "Project for the Improvement of Japanese Language Learning Equipment at the University of the West Indies, Mona."

This Grant for the amount of Twenty-Seven Million One Hundred Thousand Japanese Yen (Y27,100,000) or Twenty Four Million Nine Hundred and Thirty Two Thousand Jamaican dollars (JA\$24,932,000) is the second Cultural Grant, which the University of the West Indies has been the beneficiary from the Japanese Government.

Based on the Record of Discussions held between both Governments, an Exchange of Notes was signed on March 30, 2010 between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Japan. Subsequently, a Grant Agreement and Record of Discussions were signed on March 11, 2011, between the Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Finance & Planning for the implementation of the Cultural Grant at the University of the West Indies, Department of Modern Languages.



JOCV Language Instructor at the University of the West Indies, Mona, in a Japanese Language class with students pursuing a Degree Course in the Faculty of Humanities & Education.

The Cultural Grant equipment has now been procured from SONY and has been shipped from Japan to arrive in Jamaica in July 2012. The equipment will be installed during the Summer holidays and will be ready for classes which resume in September, 2012 at UWI.



Japan International Cooperation Agency Jamaica Office

8th Floor, Courtleigh Corporate Centre
6 St. Lucia Avenue, Kingston 5. Jamaica, W.I.
Tel: (876) 929-4069, 960-0021, 908-0847
Fax: (876) 929-4027
URL: <http://www.jica.go.jp>

JICA IN JAMAICA

JULY 2012

"Inclusive and Dynamic Development"



Courtesy call, on Dr. the Hon. Omar Davies, MP, the Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, Jamaica (left) by Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office (right) on June 27, 2012 at the Ministry.



Community Based Landslide Risk Reduction Project at Melbrook Heights in St. Andrew, Jamaica.

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JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN JAMAICA FY2012 JAAJ's Executive Board Members pay a Courtesy Call on JICA's Resident Representative



L-R : Mr. Peter Clarke, President of the JAAJ for FY2012, Ms. Lorna Wallace, Senior Programme Officer of JICA Jamaica Office, Ms. Pricilla Chambers, Secretary of the JAAJ, Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office, Ms. Cynthia Williams, Chairperson of JAAJ's Cultural Committee, and Mr. Billy Meikle, Treasurer, paid a Courtesy Call on Mr. Shukunobe at his New Kingston Office.



Mr. Dwaine Josephs of RADA presenting his proposed experiment to his colleagues at the Tsukuba International Centre in Japan.



Brown Plant Hopper Insecticide training in Japan

The practical aspect of his training took Mr. Josephs not only to other areas in Ibaraki Prefecture but to other rice growing prefectures throughout Japan. He gained practical knowledge in areas such as germination tests, seed selection and soaking, seed sowing, seedling management, land preparation and transplanting of seedlings. All participants of the training programme conducted assessments of plants at various stages of growth, participated in data collection, data analysis, harvesting and writing of technical papers.

Upon his return to Jamaica Mr. Josephs presented an Action Plan. His project is entitled “Rice Production, Productivity and Sustainability”. His project commenced early in 2012. The objective of his project is “to improve rice cultivation productivity through efficient techniques and seed production in Jamaica”. The target group for RADA are extension officers, agricultural assistants and farmers.



Rice Breeding



Mr. Dwaine Josephs and his colleagues at the Graduation Ceremony at Tsukuba International Centre in Japan.

Copyright Photos: Mr. Alexi Reid and Mr. Dwaine Josephs

FOOD SECURITY

Training in Rice Cultivation under the JICA/Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Cooperation Programme

Mr. Alexi Reid, a Research Assistant from the Bodles Agricultural Research Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' in Old Harbour, was granted a two-year JICA Award to pursue a Master of Science Degree in Sustainable Rice Cultivation in Japan. Mr. Reid studied Rice Cultivation at the Yamagata University from 2010 to 2012.

In 2008 the Government of Jamaica decided to boost its local production of rice in order to ensure food security for the nation. Mr. Reid was one of the officers selected for overseas training under the bilateral technical cooperation programme between the governments of Jamaica and Japan.

Upon his return to Jamaica, Mr. Reid is expected to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, giving guidance to the farmers and advice on the varieties of rice to be grown, best suited to the Jamaican conditions. According to Mr. Reid, a large number of the Jamaican consumers are eating rice instead of the normal staple diet of yams and bananas. The demand for rice has increased and food security is a priority for the Jamaican government.

Mr. Reid intends to raise the level of awareness of the farmers regarding the techniques for rice cultivation, in addition to encouraging private sector partners to participate in this venture. In order to be prepared to undertake this huge project, Mr. Reid has returned to Japan to complete his Doctorate Degree at the Yamagata University in this same field.



Mr. Alexi Reid of the Bodles Agricultural Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica (right) receiving technology transfer at a Rice Factory in Yamagata Prefecture, Japan.



Mr. Dwaine Josephs of RADA, Jamaica, learning mechanical transplanting in Tsukuba, Japan

Another participant of JICA's Training Programme in Japan, who studied "Rice Cultivation Techniques", is Mr. Dwaine Josephs. Mr. Josephs is from the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) Jamaica and he pursued his training in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture from February 6 to November 11, 2011.

Mr Josephs studied a wide variety of rice. Among the subject areas taught in this programme were rice physiology and ecology, plant pathology, rice morphology and anatomy, seed and germination, rice breeding, soil analysis and fertilizer, weed, disease and pest control, experimental design, statistical analysis and writing technical reports.

FOREWARD

During FY2011 JICA's profile in Jamaica has shown substantial progress in infrastructure development through Japan's ODA Loans (Yen Loans) Programme and capacity building through its technical cooperation programme with the Government of Jamaica, as Ministries, Departments and Agencies benefit from some of the following JICA's schemes:

- **Dispatch of JICA Volunteers**
- **Dispatch of Individual Experts**
- **Technical Cooperation Projects**
- **Acceptance of Trainees in Japan**
- **Technical Cooperation for Development Planning**
- **Japan's ODA Loans (Yen Loans)**

JICA in Jamaica, in pursuing its corporate vision of "inclusive and dynamic development", has completed some outstanding achievements which are indicated below:

- **Infrastructure Development** - JM-P6 - "Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Supply Project", which commenced on July 23, 1996 and was completed May 26, 2010. (Yen Loan Project)

- **Technical Cooperation Project** - "Capacity Building for Water Maintenance at the National Water Commission", commenced in 2007 and was completed in January, 2011 (Technical Cooperation Project)

- **GIS Project with Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)** to develop a National Hazard GIS database and Shelter Management Database among other developments. March, 2011 (Technical Cooperation Project).

- **Development of Small and Medium Enterprises:** Productivity Improvement and Enterprise Promotion with the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (Dispatch of Expert)

- **Acceptance of Jamaican Professionals for technical training in Japan in the areas of:**

- Education - Ministry of Education
- Health - Ministry of Health
- Disaster Management - ODPEM & University of the West Indies
- Social Security - Ministry of Labour & Social Security & JAID
- Transportation - Ministry of Transport and Works
- National Resources & Energy - Ministry of Energy & Mining
- Private Sector Development - Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce
- Agriculture/ Rural Development - Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
- Environmental Management - Ministry of Water & Housing



JICA supports the National Water Commission's Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) ODA project in Spanish Town



ASSIGNMENT OF A NEW RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR JICA JAMAICA OFFICE



Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office

Mr. Masami Shukunobe was assigned as Resident Representative of the JICA Jamaica Office on May 14, 2012. He succeeded Mr. Kineo Nishiyama, whose tenure came to an end on May 19, 2012.

Proir to being assigned to Jamaica, Mr. Shukunobe was the Director of the Training Coordinators' Management Division in the Training Affairs and Citizens' Participation Department of the JICA Headquarters in Tokyo.

Mr. Shukunobe has served in Africa as the Chief Representative in the JICA Mozambique Office from August 2008 until November 2011.

For three (3) years he was the Director of the Training Programme Division at the Chugoku International Centre in Hiroshima Prefecture from July 2005 until 2008.

He had previously also been assigned to Latin America as the Resident Representative of the JICA Guatemala Office from November 2001 until June 2005.

Mr. Shukunobe's experience as Deputy Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Department at JICA's Headquarters from April 2000 until September 2001 will be a great asset to his tour of duty in Jamaica from May 2012 until May 2014.



Ambassador Paul Robotham, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica (left) discussed JICA's cooperation in Jamaica on June 18, 2012 with Mr. Masami Shukunobe, (right), who was recently assigned as Resident Representative of the JICA Jamaica Office in Kingston.



JICA Senior Volunteer in KAIZEN, left, Dr. Charles Douglas, Executive Director of the Jamaica Productivity Centre, (second left) Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Senior Productivity Specialist at the JPC (second right) and Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office, (right).

CARIBBEAN TRAINING COURSE IN THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS FOR WORLD HERITAGE

The Government of Japan, through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), provided financial support for the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers held in Kingston, Jamaica from June 5-15, 2012.



His Excellency Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica brought remarks on June 5, 2012 at the Courtleigh Hotel & Suites in New Kingston.

The Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize, His Excellency Hiroshi Yamaguchi gave remarks on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the Training Course held at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston on June 5, 2012. Ambassador Yamaguchi indicated that the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Heritage was established in 1989 to benefit the world and mankind. He further stated that this 10-day "Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers for World Heritage" was provided from a special allocation of funds to Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) of US\$1 million, of which the Caribbean region was assigned the biggest amount of US\$338,000.

Also in attendance at this event which was sponsored by the Government of Japan, was Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office.



His Excellency Hiroshi Yamaguchi & Madame Yamaguchi exchange greetings with Mr. Masami Shukunobe, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Office.

Sixteen (16) Caribbean countries took part in this 10-day training programme, which had as its main objective "to strengthen professional capacities in the Caribbean Countries in preparing nomination dossiers and increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites with a focus on sites of memory in the Caribbean."



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